

William Martin and H. L. Douglass to Andrew Jackson, November 14, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

WILLIAM MARTIN AND H. L. DOUGLASS TO JACKSON.

[Fort Strother, November 14, 1813.]

Sir , In conformity with your request, the field officers and Captains of the first Brigade, have taken into consideration the present distressing situation of the army, together with the prospect of future supplies. The officers of the first Brigade, regret extremely, the causes that have given rise, to this, distress, but are impiously bound to give it as their opinion, that nothing short of marching the army back to the settlement will prevent that disgrace which must attend, a forcible desertion of the Camp by the soldiers. This opinion is adopted from the following considerations; first, the scarcity of provisions has been so great since the army marched from Camp Deposit, that not more than ten rations of Meat and meal have been furnished, both officers and soldiers, have been compelled to subsist for five days on less than two rations.

Secondly, The soldiers after having born with astonishing fortitude, the most distressing want of provisions, after giving the best proffs of their disposition to render services to their country by and placing the frontiers of Tennessee and the Mississippi Territory in security by driving from their borders, the savage enemy, have been so repeatedly deceived by the agents of Government with regard to supplies that they cannot believe future supplies will be more regularly furnished or in greater quantity—therefore we feel confident it will be impossible to prevent in very short time a forcible and tumultuous desertion of the Camp.

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Thirdly, The order by which the officers and soldiers of this Division were called into service was issued not more than four days previous to their march, they, therefore, had not sufficient time to provide the necessary clothing for a winter campaign, and are now almost without either shoes or clothing.

The officers of the first Brigade beg leave to assure the General, they feel the most poignant regret that existing circumstances are such as to require them to give such advice—they feel mortified at the idea of abandoning a Campaign so prosperously begun, one from which so much good would result to our Country and honor to ourselves. Whatever may be the ultimate determination of the commander in chief we pledge ourselves to assist in its execution with our authority and personal influence.

Wm Martin, Chairman,

H. L. Douglass, Secretary.